

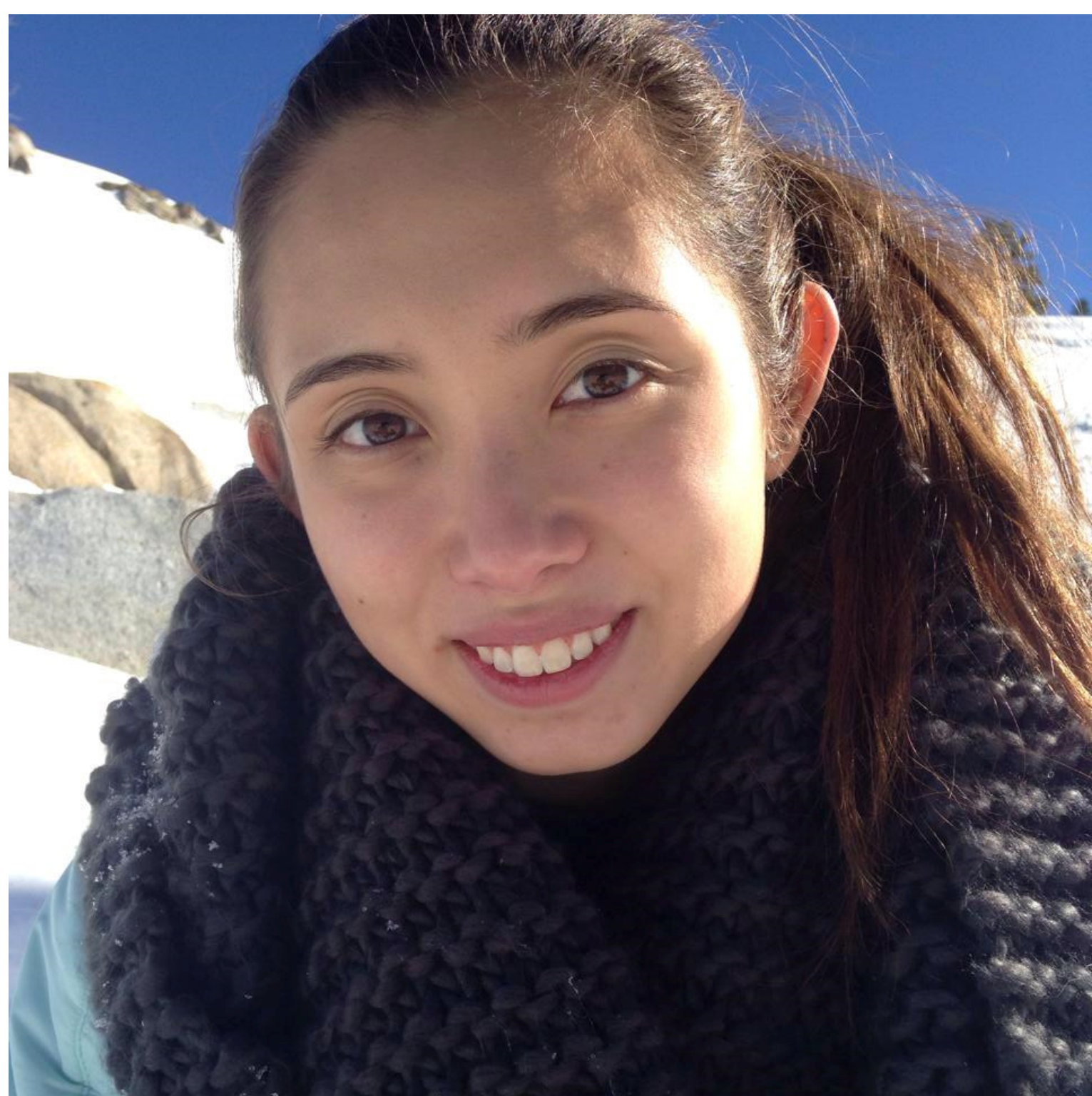


# 2014 Young Citizen of the Year



Nominee: Alexandra Torrez

Nominator: Maureen Byrne



## *In the Nominator's words:*

This year, Alexandra Torrez volunteered to be a mentor in Freshman Advisory. Alex was one of the first seniors to volunteer to participate in this new program at Dublin High School. The Freshman Mentor Program (FMP) consists of four upper-class mentors working with twenty-five freshmen for the first twenty minutes of lunch every Monday through Thursday. The mentors provide information to students about what is happening at our school, introduce students to the "Dublin way," and are both a friend and tutor to the students when needed. Alex is the perfect mentor. She is outgoing, patient,

and intelligent. She has an intuitive talent to know just what a student needs. She takes her position very seriously and treats each freshman with respect and kindness.

Recently, an upper class student visited Alex's advisory, and he did not understand the seriousness of the mentor position. The student disregarded our classroom agreements and interrupted our activity for the day. The coordinator later received an email from Alex that urged her to not let this visitor return to the advisory. She wrote, "Although I would not say anything in front of [our visitor], I think it would be best for him to not participate as an FMP. I think having a consistent face in the classroom who is there every day to help, interact, and tutor the freshmen is important, especially in letting our students know they have people they can count on being there." It was surprising and gratifying to receive such a mature and responsible reaction. Alex not only volunteers her time, but believes wholeheartedly in what she is doing! She has honed her skills as a mentor over the last four months. She has become an expert on each student, what classes they are having trouble with, and how best to help them.

Alex often stays after Advisory to update her advisor on the students and develop activities suited to their needs. Alex's potential for leadership is unending. She was elected to be part of the FMP Executive Board to oversee the entire program of 23 advisory classes, 92 mentors, and 590 freshmen. When Alex was asked to be one of seven mentors on the Board, she enthusiastically agreed. As part of the Executive Board, Alex has designed and presented activities to the other mentors at our monthly lunch and learn meetings. She has presented details on the state of our program at both staff meetings and to our School Board at our district office. Alex is conscientious, unique, and compassionate. In her own words, "I believe a strength I have as a leader is acceptance, I personally believe that you must accept all types of people and truly get to know them without passing opinion." Dublin High recommends her highly with enthusiasm and confidence.